



COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions:

*****Updated December 26, 2020*****

COVID-19 Executive Orders from the Governor's Office, including Executive Order 183 (EO 183) – Mixed Beverages, can be [found here](#). FAQ's from the Governor's Office on EO 183 can be [found here](#).

COVID-19 Executive Orders from the Governor's Office, including Executive Order 181 (EO 181) – Modified Stay-at-Home Early Closure Order, can be [found here](#). FAQ's from the Governor's Office can be [found here](#).

NCDHHS Interim Guidance for Winter Holidays can be [found here](#).

NCDHHS Student Interim Guidance for Safer Holiday Breaks can be [found here](#).

Disclaimer: This is a rapidly changing situation, and the answers to these questions may change daily, so please make sure to keep checking back regularly as we update answers to your questions.

This document is only updated as questions that have not already been addressed are received. If the date at the top of the page is more than one business day old, there have not been any new questions answered since that date

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AMUSEMENT PARKS & AMUSEMENT TRANSPORTATION

Q: Are INDOOR rides at amusement parks allowed to be open? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: Indoor rides and attractions at amusement parks must remain closed, with the exception of indoor restaurants, restrooms, and retail locations, which can be open under the rules applicable to those specific places.

Q: Are OUTDOOR rides at amusement parks open now? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: Yes. Amusement parks may open at 30% of their stated capacity under the following additional conditions:

1. All workers and guests must wear face coverings.
2. The operator of a ride must limit the number of guests within each vehicle or car to either 1) have all guests within a vehicle/car be in the same friends/family group, or 2) ensure six feet of separation between each group of friends/family within the vehicle/car.
3. Group activities like tours within the amusement parks are limited by the outdoor mass gathering requirements
4. All waiting lines within the park (for rides, concessions, etc.) must be marked 6 feet apart.
5. Disinfect shared objects and surfaces between uses.

Q: What is “amusement transportation” and is it allowed? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: Amusement transportation includes tour buses, trains, horse drawn carriages, trolley pubs, sightseeing vehicles, and any other transportation that is principally offered and used for amusement, regardless of whether such transportation is located in an amusement park. Such transportation methods are allowed, subject to the following requirements:

1. All workers and guests must wear face coverings.
2. The operator of this type of transportation must limit the number of guests within each vehicle or car to either 1) have all guests within a vehicle/car be in the same friends/family group, or 2) ensure six feet of separation between each group of friends/family within the vehicle/car.
3. Group tours are limited by the outdoor mass gathering requirements
4. All waiting lines to get onto the amusement transportation must be marked 6 feet apart.
5. Disinfect shared objects or surfaces between uses.

CHILD CARE, DAY CAMPS, OVERNIGHT CAMPS, AND RELATED CHILD SERVICES

Q: What are the requirements for a child care center, day camp, or overnight camp to be open? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: All open facilities of this type must follow all applicable NC DHHS guidelines, as well as all core signage, screening, and safety/sanitation requirements as defined in the Governor’s orders. This

includes a daily health screening of all individuals who are entering the building, including workers, adults, and children. They are also required to immediately isolate sick workers or children and send them home, and then have a plan in place to work with local health departments to identify close contacts of confirmed cases in their facility. Additionally, all persons 5 years of age and older who are present at one of these facilities are required to wear a mask, unless an exception applies, whether they are more than 6 feet apart from each other or not.

Q: Are day camps and overnight camps allowed to be open? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: These businesses can be open as long as they comply with CDC and NC DHHS guidelines for childcare facilities, which can be found at [NC Interim Guidance for Day Camp or Program Settings Serving Children and Teens](#). Any businesses which cannot meet these requirements and recommendations should be closed.

Q: Are all child care facilities open, and who is allowed to go there? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Child care facilities are all allowed to be open, and they may serve all children in North Carolina, as long as the facilities are in compliance with all requirements of the Governor's orders.

CURFEW RESTRICTIONS AND "STAY AT HOME" RECOMMENDATIONS

Q: What are the current curfew restrictions and when do they take effect? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: NC is currently in a "modified stay at home" order. This means that ALL individuals must stay at home or the place they will stay for the night from 10:00 pm until 5:00 am. These restrictions are in effect from 5:00 pm on December 11, 2020, until 5:00 pm on January 8, 2021. Additionally, those at "high risk" should remain at home unless they are traveling for absolutely essential purposes. "High risk" individuals include those who are over the age of 65 or who are immunocompromised, have cancer, have Type 2 diabetes mellitus, suffer from lung or kidney disease, are morbidly obese, have a severe heart condition, or have sickle cell disease.

Q: Are there any exceptions to the modified stay at home order? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: Yes. Individuals may leave home during the stay at home period for the following reasons:

1. Travel to or from a place of work, or to perform work at their workplace when the worker's presence is required by the worker's employer, or other travel for work purposes;
2. Travel to obtain food, medical care, fuel, or social services;
3. Travel from a business that closed at or after 10:00 p.m. or to a business that will open at 5:00 a.m.;
4. Travel to take care of a family member, friend, or pet in another household;
5. Travel to or from a religious service or other 1st Amendment activity exempted under executive orders;

6. Travel required by law enforcement or court order
7. Travel necessary for personal safety;
8. Travel into or out of the state;
9. Using or providing shared transportation for an allowed purpose;
10. Travel by the media;
11. Travel by law enforcement, fire, paramedics, and all other first responders and emergency responders;
12. Travel on behalf of the US government, state government, or any local government;
13. Travel to and from professional or collegiate athletic events.

Q: Will transportation services be available during the stay at home period? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: Yes. Using or providing shared transportation services, including taxis, ride share services, buses, trains, and planes, is not prohibited during the stay at home period, as long as the travel is for an allowable purpose.

Q: Do all entertainment events have to stop at 10:00 pm as well? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: Yes. Movies, live entertainment, and all youth sporting events must end by 10:00 pm. Only professional or collegiate athletic events may continue past the curfew time.

ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES, EVENT VENUES, AND FILM ACTIVITIES

Q: Can alcohol be served in very large entertainment or sporting venues? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: Yes, alcohol can be served for on-site consumption in the outdoor venue, or at indoor seated restaurants at the venue, but all indoor bars at the event venues must remain closed. However, all alcohol sales for on-premises consumption must cease at 9:00 pm, and all restaurants and food/beverage vendors must cease operation at 10:00 pm. See [Restaurants and Bars](#) section for information about to-go mixed beverages.

Q: What qualifies as a “very large entertainment or sporting venue”? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: Very large entertainment or sporting venues are OUTDOOR venues that must have the capacity to seat over 10,000 people, and must have more than 2 entrances and 2 exits. This could include sporting stadiums, amphitheatres, arenas, and any other facility that meets these requirements.

Q: What are the rules for very large entertainment or sporting venues to be open? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: Very large entertainment or sporting venues are permitted to open at 7% of their maximum fire capacity with key safety precautions in place, including the following:

1. All seats must be specifically assigned and ticketed, so there cannot be any “General Admission” or “Standing Room Only” seating.
2. Workers, participants, and guests must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies
3. Staff at the venue must monitor and direct the flow of persons in common spaces in order to limit people massing together.
4. The number of people allowed in a very large entertainment or sporting venue does not include workers, entertainers, athletes, and other support staff.
5. There must be a separation of at least 6 feet between individuals or groups that come together, and that separation includes both horizontal (side to side) and vertical (front and back) separation.
6. Groups of individuals who come to the event and sit together cannot have more than 10 people.
7. Staff at the venue must monitor to ensure that people are not changing seats once they are inside the venue.
8. Follow the core signage, screening, and safety/sanitation requirements.
9. Increase disinfection during peak times or high customer density times, and disinfect all shared objects between each use.
10. Immediately isolate and remove sick workers.
11. Any food service at a very large entertainment or sporting venue must comply with all restaurant restrictions.
12. Any entertainers or athletes must stay 6 feet away from any spectators.

Q: For entertainment and sporting venues that do not qualify as a “very large” venues, how are the rules different? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: For smaller venues, including amphitheaters, auditoriums, smaller arenas or live performance venues, and music halls or dance halls, they are all allowed to be open under the following conditions:

1. All guests must be seated except when they go to the restroom or get up for the purpose of obtaining food or drink.
2. No standing receptions, cocktail hours, or time set aside to mingle while standing.
3. Tables or seats must be marked and separated by at least 6 feet.
4. Workers and guests must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.
5. The capacity of guests for any INDOOR space is restricted to 25 guests per facility
6. The capacity for guests for any OUTDOOR space shall be the LESSER of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity for the space, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity).
7. Workers, entertainers, and staff do not count towards the capacity limits.
8. There must be 6 feet of spacing at all point of sale areas, and entertainers must be more than 6 feet away from guests.

Q: Are hotel ballrooms, conference centers, and private meeting and event spaces allowed to host parties, receptions, or corporate events? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: These facilities are allowed to be open and host special events under the following conditions:

1. All guests must be seated except when they go to the restroom or get up for the purpose of obtaining food or drink (i.e. from a buffet station).

2. No standing receptions, cocktail hours, or time set aside to mingle while standing.
3. Tables must be separated by at least 6 feet.
4. Workers and guests must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.
5. The capacity for guests for the event space shall be the lesser of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity for the space, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity).
6. There must be 6 feet of spacing at all point of sale areas.

Q: Are movie theaters, bingo parlors, video arcades, and other gaming establishments allowed to be open? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: These facilities are allowed to be open under the following conditions:

1. All guests must be seated except when they go to the restroom or get up for the purpose of obtaining food or drink.
2. Individual seats must be separated by at least 6 feet.
3. Workers and guests must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.
4. The capacity for guests for the space shall be the lesser of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity for the space (or each individual movie theater), or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity).
5. There must be 6 feet of spacing at all point of sale areas.

Q: Are adult entertainment facilities allowed to be open? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: Yes, they are allowed to be open under the following conditions:

1. All guests must be seated and spaced out by at least 6 feet in all directions from other groups of guests
2. All workers and guests must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.
3. Indoor seating may be open, but is limited to the 25 person indoor mass gathering requirement.
4. No alcoholic beverages may be sold for on-site consumption in any indoor area.
5. Outdoor seating areas may be open, with guests limited to the LESSER of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity specifically for the outdoor area, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity for the outdoor area).
6. Alcoholic beverages may be sold for on-site consumption in outdoor seating areas, subject to all state and local regulations.

Q: Are film crew productions subject to the mass gathering requirements? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Mass gathering requirements don't apply to gatherings for work purposes. However, even in a work setting, "people must follow the recommendations to promote social distancing as much as possible, and they should circulate within the space so that there is no sustained contact between people."

Q: For outdoor events, how is the outdoor limitation of 50 people to be calculated? Can several separate tents be erected and 50 people allowed within each of them and still be in compliance with the outdoor gathering requirements? (Posted July 31, 2020)

A: The 50 person outdoor limit is for EACH ENCLOSED outdoor space. If the tents have walls and a roof, or if the areas are separated by fences or other natural or manmade dividers, and there is a way to sufficiently control the number so that no more than 50 people are in there at a time, then it is possible that separate tents with 50 people in each would be allowed. However, you cannot just put up 5 tents with top coverings and no sides in the back yard and let in 250 people to wander around unfettered between all of them. **The spaces have to be visibly separate and controlled to make sure that number isn't exceeded.**

Q: Are drive-in movies and other drive-in activities allowed? (Posted May 22, 2020)

A: Drive-in activities of any kind are allowed as long as individuals remain in their vehicles. It is also advised that vehicles remain at least six (6) feet apart.

ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE, AND MASS GATHERINGS

Q: How many people can I have at my home? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: The mass gathering limits are applicable to personal residences as well as other places. No more than 10 people should be inside your home, unless you all live there together. Similarly, you should not have more than 50 people at any event in your yard or on your porch/patio/deck or other outdoor space at your residence. Under the modified stay at home order, all guests must leave your home by 10:00 pm. For guidance relating to holiday events at your home, NCDHHS has also provided the following guidance: <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Winter-Holidays.pdf>.

Q: Is WPD actually enforcing the requirements of all of these Executive Orders, and if so, are they issuing citations to those not in compliance? (December 10, 2020)

A: Yes, WPD is responding to any location that they become aware of that may not be in full compliance with all current executive orders. Officers will always attempt to reconcile the situation with education about the requirements first, but citations will be (and have been) issued if there is not voluntary compliance. Additionally, the Governor has directed that all curfew and travel restrictions should be enforced for willful or repeated violations.

Q: For mass gatherings, what is defined as a “confined outdoor space”? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: “Mass gatherings” are defined as events or convenings that bring together 1) more than 10 persons at the same time in a single indoor space, such as an auditorium, conference room, meeting hall, or any other confined indoor space, or 2) more than 50 persons at the same time in a single outdoor space, such as an arena or stadium. The Governor is specific that this prohibition also applies to outdoor parades, fairs, and festivals, and the FAQ’s on the Governor’s website also mention “enclosed spaces” as spaces that are confined on the outside by walls or fences, but this list

is not all-inclusive. An enclosed outdoor space could also include many other things, including a baseball field, a party tent where the top and sides are enclosed, or even a roped off area of a parking lot or field where access is sufficiently controlled. If you have a question about how something is classified for the purpose of mass gathering requirements, you may contact the City Attorney's Office for additional guidance.

Q: How do I report a business or individual who I think is violating an order? (Posted July 31, 2020)

A: If you have a concern regarding a business within the City limits that you believe is not complying with the current orders, you may contact either the [Wilmington Police Department](#), the [Mayor's Office](#), or the [City Attorney's Office](#), and someone will direct your concern to the proper place for review. Email is the preferred form of communication so that you can receive a response in writing. Please see the links above to contact those parties.

Q: Will there be consequences be for refusal to comply with current restrictions? What will those consequences be? (Posted April 1, 2020)

A: The purpose of the restrictions is to get the public and local businesses to voluntarily comply in order to curb the spread of the virus. Individuals or businesses who are in violation of the restrictions will be counseled first and educated on why they are in violation and asked to comply. If they continue to refuse/comply, violation can be a Class 2 misdemeanor, which could include jail time of up to 60 days and up to a \$1,000 fine.

EVICTIIONS AND HOUSING ISSUES

Q: What are my options if I am out of work due to COVID-19 and am unable to pay my rent? (Posted November 20, 2020)

A: North Carolina has recently launched the HOPE program to assist individuals with housing opportunities and eviction avoidance. The application can be accessed at this link. <https://nc211.org/hope/>. Tips for applying for assistance, according to the website, are as follows:

- Applicants must have lived in their rental unit for at least 30 days
- Applicant must be named in the written lease agreement or a party to a verbal lease agreement
- Applicant or co-applicant must be named on past due utility bills that are part of the request for assistance
- Be prepared to:
 - Provide your monthly household income
 - Provide your landlord's name and contact information
 - Provide dollars amounts owed for back rent and/or utilities
- Gather your supporting documents

Q: Can I be evicted if I am unable to pay my rent due to COVID-19? (Posted November 20, 2020)

A: Governor Cooper's [Executive Order 171](#) went into effect at 5 p.m. on October 30, 2020. This order clarified the CDC eviction moratorium and required that North Carolina landlords notify tenants of the moratorium and provide them with a blank declaration form, which can also be found [here](#). FAQ's from the Governor's office for EO 171 can be found [here](#).

Q: What resources are available if I am experiencing homelessness as a result of COVID-19? (Posted November 20, 2020)

A: The Coordinated Entry hotline by Cape Fear Council of Governments is for individuals experiencing homelessness, and will operate for appointments and call-ins Mon-Wed-Fri from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last assessment being at 3:30 p.m. The hotline number is (910) 444-8315 for an assessment to be placed on the community prioritization list. If there is no answer, leave a voicemail or text a call-back name and number for assistance. Email is also an option for appointments and information – coordinatedentry@capefearcog.org.

FACE COVERINGS

Q: Are City employees and members of the public entering City buildings or on City property required to wear face coverings? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: The Governor's executive orders allow local governments to develop their own policies regarding face coverings for their employees and the public who enter their buildings or property. The City of Wilmington has implemented its own guidelines as follows:

- City of Wilmington employees are generally required to wear face coverings that securely cover the nose and mouth, unless they qualify for an exemption outlined in the Governor's executive order. This guidance is in effect for all City of Wilmington indoor facilities at all times when the employees are in a room/area with anyone who is not a member of their immediate household, whether or not the individuals in the room/area are able to maintain six (6) feet of social distancing between themselves. This guidance also applies to all outdoor facilities (including city-owned vehicles) when employees are, or may be, within six (6) feet of another person. Police officers and Fire Department personnel are required to wear face coverings at all times, to the fullest extent practicable.
- Citizens who enter into City buildings will be asked to wear a face covering, which will be communicated through signage that will be placed on all entrances and by greeters (if applicable). Disposable face masks will be available to citizens inside city buildings, if needed. Citizens who refuse to wear a face covering, or who claim an exemption to the face covering requirements, will be asked to leave the building, and staff will work with them to arrange another way to obtain any services they need, including the possibility of telephone conferences with staff, the use of online services, or any other options that are available without in-person contact. This applies to all City buildings, including all recreation facilities, as engaging in strenuous exercise is no longer an exception to the requirement of wearing face coverings. Citizens are similarly required to wear a face covering at City outdoor facilities,

including but not limited to all parks and trails, when they are, or may be, within six (6) feet of others, regardless of whether they are exercising.

Q: Are face coverings REQUIRED everywhere in public? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 180 (EO #180), for any place outside the home, including but not limited to businesses, schools, and other places where people may travel or congregate, face coverings must be worn indoors if anyone else is in that space who is not a member of the same household. Additionally, face coverings must be worn outdoors if it is not possible to consistently be physically distant by more than 6 feet from non-household members. These requirements apply to all people 5 years of age and older, unless an exception applies to the individual or to the specific type of business, as listed in the Governor's orders.

Q: Are there other specific requirements about where face coverings are REQUIRED, and by whom? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Pursuant to EO #180, in addition to the public places mentioned above, protective face coverings are REQUIRED by the following individuals in the following places/situations:

1. Retail workers at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person.
2. Customers in retail businesses at all times inside the establishment, regardless of whether they may be within 6 feet of another person, unless an exception applies.
3. Restaurant workers at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person.
4. Customers in a restaurant at all times, even at their table, unless they are actively eating or drinking or unless the customer states that an exception applies.
5. Workers in personal care, grooming, and tattoo businesses at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person.
6. Customers in a personal care, grooming, or tattoo business at all times, regardless of whether they may be within 6 feet of another person, unless the customer states that an exception applies. Additionally, customers may take off a face covering only while they are receiving a facial treatment, shave, or other services on a part of the head or face that would interfere with the face covering.
7. Workers and all other adults and children age 5 and older who are present at a public or nonpublic (as defined in Article 39, Chapter 115 of the N.C. General Statutes) school, at all times when they are indoors, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person, unless an exception applies, and at all times when they are outdoors and within 6 feet of another person.
8. Workers and all other adults and children age 5 and older who are present at a child care facility, day camp, or overnight camp at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person.
9. Workers and riders on public transportation, including everyone in NC airports and at bus and train stations or stops, at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within 6 feet of another person. Guests may be denied entry or removed from public transportation for failure to wear a face covering.
10. Workers at museums or aquariums at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within 6 feet of another person.

11. Customers at museums or aquariums when they are inside the establishment at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person.
12. Workers in long-term care facilities, while in the facility, and the masks must be surgical masks.
13. Workers in gyms and other exercise facilities at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within 6 feet of another person, and regardless of whether the worker is strenuously exercising.
14. Customers in gyms and other exercise facilities at all times, regardless of whether they may be within 6 feet of another person, and regardless of whether the customer is strenuously exercising.

Q: How do the mask requirements work in child care facilities, day camps, and overnight camps? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Child care facilities, day camps, and overnight camps must have workers, all other adults, and children five (5) years or older on site wear face coverings at all times, whether or not they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person. Businesses or organizations that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings may be issued citations unless they can show that they relied on their customers' or patrons' statements about whether or not they are excepted from the face covering requirements.

Q: What are the exceptions to the face covering requirements? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: This Executive Order does not require face coverings for workers, customers, or patrons who:

1. Should not wear a face covering due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability (including, but not limited to any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance);
2. Is under five (5) years of age;
3. Is actively eating or drinking;
4. Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible;
5. Is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience;
6. Is working at home or is in a personal vehicle;
7. Is temporarily removing his or her face covering to secure government or medical services or for identification purposes;
8. Would be at risk from wearing a face covering at work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulations, or by workplace safety guidelines;
9. Has found that his or her face covering is impeding visibility to operate equipment or a vehicle; or
10. Is a child whose parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place the face covering safely on the child's face.

Q: If I qualify for an exemption from wearing a face covering based on the list of exemptions in the Governor's Executive Order, is a private business required to admit me into their facility? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: If a customer entering a business indicates that they are exempt from wearing a mask due to a qualifying exception, it is up to the business whether to let them in or not. The business cannot require documentation or proof of a condition/exemption, but it does have the option of either refusing entry to the customer, letting the customer in under the exception, or offering the customer another option like curbside service, home delivery, or some other reasonable measure to provide goods and services. Businesses are not required to let in people who claim they are exempt from the mask requirement.

Q: What are the rules for face coverings by workers and customers inside a retail business? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Retail businesses must have all workers wear face coverings at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person. In addition, retail businesses must have all customers wear face coverings at all times when they are inside the establishment, regardless of whether they may be within (6) feet of another person, unless the customer states that an exception applies. If a customer states that an exception applies, a business may deny service to the customer, or may choose to offer curbside service, provide home delivery, or use some other reasonable measure to deliver its good or services. Businesses or organizations that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings may be issued citations unless they can show that they relied on their customers' or patrons' statements about whether or not they are excepted from the face covering requirements. Customers may also be issued citations if they refuse to wear a face covering wherever one is required by the Governor's orders. If a business or organization does not allow entry to a worker, customer, or patron because that person refuses to wear a face covering, and if that worker, customer, or patron enters the premises or refuses to leave the premises, law enforcement personnel may enforce the trespassing laws and any other laws (other than N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.20A) that the worker, customer, or patron may violate.

Q: What are the rules for face coverings by workers and customers at restaurants? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Restaurants must have all workers wear face coverings at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person. In addition, restaurants must have all customers wear face coverings at all times, even when seated at their table, unless the customer is actively eating or drinking or unless the customer states that an exception applies. Businesses or organizations that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings may be issued citations unless they can show that they relied on their customers' or patrons' statements about whether or not they are excepted from the face covering requirements. Customers may also be issued citations if they refuse to wear a face covering wherever one is required by the Governor's orders. If a business or organization does not allow entry to a worker, customer, or patron because that person refuses to wear a face covering, and if that worker, customer, or patron enters the premises or refuses to leave the premises, law enforcement personnel may enforce the trespassing laws and any other laws (other than N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.20A) that the worker, customer, or patron may violate.

Q: What are the rules for face coverings by workers and customers at personal care, grooming, and tattoo businesses? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: These businesses must have workers wear face coverings at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person. In addition, the business must have all customers wear face coverings when they are inside the establishment, regardless of whether they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person, unless the customer states that an exception applies. Customers may only take off their face coverings if they are receiving a facial treatment, shave, or other services on a part of the head which the face covering covers or by which the face covering is secured. Businesses or organizations that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings may be issued citations unless they can show that they relied on their customers' or patrons' statements about whether or not they are excepted from the face covering requirements. Customers may also be issued citations if they refuse to wear a face covering wherever one is required by the Governor's orders. If a business or organization does not allow entry to a worker, customer, or patron because that person refuses to wear a face covering, and if that worker, customer, or patron enters the premises or refuses to leave the premises, law enforcement personnel may enforce the trespassing laws and any other laws (other than N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.20A) that the worker, customer, or patron may violate.

Q: Do I have to wear a face covering in my car, or when I am riding in public transportation or in a ride-share like Uber or Lyft? (Posted June 25, 2020)

A: All workers and riders on public or private transportation regulated by the State of North Carolina, as well as all people in North Carolina airports, and at bus and train stations or stops, must wear face coverings at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person. Customers may be removed from or denied entry to public transportation for failure to wear a face covering. Individuals traveling in a personal vehicle with household members are not required to wear a face covering, but individuals traveling in a personal vehicle with non-household members are required to wear a face covering. Face coverings are required in ride-shares, cabs, vans, and shuttles, even if the vehicles are privately owned. There is an exception to the face covering requirement for anyone who finds that his or her face covering is impeding visibility to operate equipment or a vehicle.

Q: Do I have to provide documentation or any other proof of a condition if I assert an exception to the face covering rules? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: No. Everyone is asked to tell the truth, and if they are healthy and able to wear a mask, they are asked to wear a face covering so that they do not put other people at risk of serious illness and death.

Q: Are employers REQUIRED to provide face coverings to employees? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: According to the Governor's Executive Order #163, employers should make a good faith effort to provide a 1 week supply of reusable face coverings or provide daily disposable face coverings for all employees working outside of their homes.

Q: What if I am stopped by a law enforcement officer and directed to remove my face covering? (Posted June 25, 2020)

A: A person wearing a face covering for health and safety purposes must remove the face covering upon request by a law enforcement officer during a traffic stop (including a checkpoint or roadblock) and when a law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion or probable cause during a criminal investigation.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Q: Is there any financial assistance available for small businesses that have been shut down per the Governor's Executive Orders? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: The N.C. Mortgage, Utility and Rent Relief (MURR), administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, can provide up to \$20,000 in relief funds per qualifying business location. Business applicants from certain industry sectors that have not been able to operate during the COVID period may apply for up to two of their business locations.

Applicants can apply for up to four months of mortgage interest or rent expenses, and utility expenses. The help offers relief for some of the fixed costs a business cannot easily control on its own. Applications to the program will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. The Department of Commerce is accepting applications. Business leaders can learn about the MURR program by registering for one of the free educational webinars offered by the Department of Commerce. For the webinar schedule and additional information on the program, visit www.nccommerce.com/murr.

Q: What are my options if I am or have been out of work due to COVID-19 restrictions and am unable to pay my utility bills? (Posted July 8, 2020)

A: The Salvation Army has funding available to help with utility payments and rent / mortgage for people in the 5 county area. The bill must be past due. All appointments are done over the phone due to COVID-19. You can find all information at www.buildhope.news under the forms tab. Instructions for application submission and other information, including a phone number, can be found [here](#).

FITNESS, RECREATION, AND COMPETITIVE SPORTS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FACILITIES

Q: What rules are INDOOR gyms and other fitness facilities under now? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Indoor fitness facilities must limit customers to 30% of their stated fire capacity (or 7 people per 1,000 square feet, if there is no stated fire capacity), and must follow all of the core signage, screening, and safety/sanitation requirements as defined in the Governor's executive orders. Additionally, they are also required to do the following:

1. Limit the number of guests in any given room of the facility so that everyone can stay six feet apart, including group classes.
2. Workers and customers must wear face coverings at all times, regardless of whether they are strenuously exercising.
3. They must tape off or move equipment to restrict access so that the people exercising are at least 6 feet apart.
4. They must ensure that individuals in group classes or activities stay 6 feet apart from each other. Instructors may come within 6 feet of students for less than 15 minutes at a time.
5. Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer use for workers and customers
6. Disinfect all shared equipment between users with an EPA approved disinfectant AND allow the disinfectant to sit for the adequate amount of time stated by the manufacturer.
7. Increase disinfection during peak times or high-population-density times.
8. Mark 6 feet of spacing in lines at point of sale and in other high traffic areas for customers.

Q: Are all sports allowed now, both inside and outside? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: The Governor's orders no longer limit the types of sports allowed to be played, either inside or outside, but there are mass gathering, maximum occupancy, and other requirements specific to some sports and physical activities which will apply. Additionally, NC DHHS has provided extensive guidance and recommendations for Youth/Amateur sports, which can be found at <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Youth-Amateur-Sports.pdf>.

Q: What fitness and competitive physical activity facilities are allowed to be open under the current executive order? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: The following types of establishments may be open, subject to compliance with all other provisions of the Governor's executive orders:

1. Exercise facilities (i.e. yoga studios, dance studios, martial arts facilities, gymnastics, indoor trampoline parks, rock climbing facilities)
2. Gyms
3. Fields of play (i.e. basketball courts, volleyball courts, baseball fields, racquetball courts, squash courts, hockey rinks, soccer fields, wrestling, tennis courts), all limited by the number of spectators allowed in a specific venue
4. Health clubs and fitness centers
5. Boxing clubs
6. Skating rinks
7. Bowling alleys
8. Golf courses and driving ranges, including golf ball hitting bays and mini-golf locations
9. The track for any speedway or raceway, with spectators limited based on Executive Orders
10. Paint ball, laser tag, and similar fields and arenas
11. Indoor Playgrounds

Q: What are the rules for spectators in stands or viewing areas at a sporting facility, stadium, sporting complex, or speedway, that does not qualify as a “very large” sporting facility? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: For smaller sporting venues, the venues are allowed to be open, but the rules for spectators are as follows:

1. All spectators must be seated except when they go to the restroom or get up for the purpose of obtaining food or drink.
2. Seats must be marked and separated by at least 6 feet in all directions.
3. Spectators and workers at the facility must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.
4. The capacity of guests for any INDOOR sporting facility is restricted to 10 guests per facility.
5. The capacity for guests for any OUDOOR space shall be the LESSER of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity for the space, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity).
6. Workers, athletes, and staff do not count towards the capacity limits.
7. There must be 6 feet of spacing at all point of sale areas, and athletes must be more than 6 feet away from guests.

Q: What are the rules for swimming pools? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Indoor and outdoor pool facilities, whether stand alone or part of other facilities, are allowed to be open under certain restrictions. Specifically, the capacity at the pool is limited to 50% of the maximum fire capacity for the deck areas, and a max occupancy in the water of 10 people per 1000 square feet. Additionally, pools must follow all of the core signage, screening, and safety/sanitation requirements that are set out in the Governor’s executive orders.

Q: Do the regulations for pools apply to my family pool at my house? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: No. The rules for swimming pools only apply to shared pools in commercial settings or at residential complexes, and not to family pools at people’s homes, but mass gathering limits will still apply to back yard residential gatherings.

Q: Are the rules for OUTDOOR gyms and fitness facilities different from INDOOR ones? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: For outdoor areas, the maximum number of people is determined to be the LEAST of either the mass gathering limit of 50 people, 12 people per 1,000 feet in the outdoor space, or the amount of people that can fit into the space if everyone can be 6 feet apart. Otherwise, the rules for outdoor facilities are the same as for indoor facilities.

Q: What if I want to hold a meeting at a gym or fitness facility, like our local YMCA/YWCA? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Meeting halls, conference rooms, amphitheaters, multipurpose rooms, and other gathering spaces within fitness facilities are limited to the mass gathering limits of 10 people indoors or 50 people outdoors for each separately enclosed space.

Q: Do I still have to bring a medical note to go to my gym? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: No. The previous requirements for going to a gym no longer apply, and anyone can attend, so long as the maximum occupancy numbers, face covering requirements, and other rules are followed by the facility.

Q: How to the mass gathering requirements apply to parks, trails, and beaches? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Each group of people within an outdoor park, trail, or beach must be limited so that the group, counted on its own, does not exceed the mass gathering limit. Additionally, anyone in an outdoor park or on a trail or beach must wear a face covering if they are within 6 feet of others.

Q: Are playgrounds open, including playground equipment and fitness stations in City parks? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Yes. Playgrounds are open, including playground equipment and fitness stations in City parks. Indoor playgrounds must follow the capacity requirements for gyms and fitness facilities.

Q: What are the requirements for parks to be open? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: In order to be open, all operators of public or private parks must meet the following requirements:

1. Post signage reminding attendees, customers, and workers about social distancing, and requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough to not enter.
2. Conduct daily symptom screening of workers.
3. Immediately isolate and remove sick workers.
4. Perform frequent and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas with an EPS-approved disinfectant.

Q: Are escape/panic rooms allowed to be open? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Yes, these businesses are allowed to be open so long as mass gathering limits and face covering requirements are observed within each individual room of the facility, and all other requirements of the Governor's executive orders are followed.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Q: Are chiropractic offices allowed to be open, and does that include massages? (Posted May 22, 2020)

A: Chiropractic offices may continue to operate and provide care to patients, and massage parlors, either stand-alone or in a chiropractic or other office environment, are allowed beginning in Phase 2 of the Governor's re-opening plan.

Q: Are shelters for the homeless, domestic violence victims, etc. allowed to stay open? (Posted April 2, 2020)

A: The Governor's order says that residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, pets, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, substance abusers, and the mentally ill are all considered essential and are not required to close. They are encouraged to practice social distancing as much as possible. If one shelter voluntarily decides to close, for whatever reason, other shelters and facilities should still be open.

Q: Is the homeless population subject to the same gathering restrictions as everyone else, even when gathering for meals offered by non-profit organizations? (Posted March 31, 2020)

A: Organizations that provide food and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals may continue offering services, including meals to the homeless population, but everyone involved should maintain 6-foot social distancing, and more than 10 persons should not congregate in the same area at the same time.

MUSEUMS AND AQUARIUMS

Q: Are museums and aquariums allowed to be open? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Yes. Museums and aquariums are allowed to be open, as long as they meet the following requirements:

1. Workers in museums and aquariums must wear face coverings when they are inside, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of others, unless an exception applies.
2. Workers in museums and aquariums must wear face coverings if they are outside and within 6 feet of another person, unless an exception applies.
3. Guests in museums and aquariums must wear face coverings at all times, unless an exception applies.
4. Attendance in the building is limited to 50% of the stated fire capacity, and the facility must ensure that people are able to social distance and remain 6 feet away from groups other than those in their households.
5. Visitors in each room within a museum or aquarium must be limited so as not to exceed the 25 person mass gathering limit in each room.
6. Restaurants within museums and aquariums are subject to the max occupancy and other requirements specific to restaurants, as laid out in the executive orders.
7. Post signage reminding attendees, customers, and workers about social distancing, and requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough to not enter.
8. Conduct daily symptom screening of workers.

9. Immediately isolate and remove sick workers.
10. Perform frequent and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas with an EPS-approved disinfectant.
11. All other group activities, such as tours, receptions, or parties, are subject to the Mass Gathering limit for outdoor spaces, and twenty-five (25) individuals for indoor spaces.

PERSONAL CARE, GROOMING, AND TATTOO BUSINESSES

Q: Are hair salons and tattoo parlors allowed to be open? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: Yes. Personal care, grooming, and tattoo businesses are all allowed to be open, under certain restrictions, including a maximum occupancy of 50% of their stated fire capacity, and a requirement that the seating in the store should be arranged so that groups of customers are separated from one another by 6 feet. Face coverings are required by workers at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person. **Based on the recommendations of the CDC, face shields do not meet the requirements for face coverings.** Customers in these businesses are also required to wear face coverings at all times, unless the service they are receiving affects their head or face area. These businesses must also follow all of the core signage, screening, and safety/sanitation requirements that are contained in the Governor's executive orders. This includes ensuring that all equipment that comes into direct personal contact with customers and all furniture in service areas is completely cleaned and disinfected between each customer.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS

Q: Are churches allowed to be open, and what rules apply to church services when they are held? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Yes. Church services are an exception to the mass gathering rules, so they can be held with any number of people, inside or outside, including drive-in services, but face coverings and social distancing are still recommended to be observed to the fullest extent practicable. Additionally, although not subject to the Governor's orders, outdoor religious services are still subject to all City ordinances, including the noise ordinance and all traffic rules. Repeated honking of horns during a religious service is a specific violation of the noise ordinance and could result in a citation. If there is a concern as to whether the volume of the church service/music will be over the allowed limits, please contact the Wilmington Police Department or the City Attorney's Office, and someone will be glad to discuss the issue with you and help you.

Q: Can wedding receptions be held at private homes, rental beach houses, and private farms? (Posted November 20, 2020)

A: Private homes, beach houses, and farms may host parties or wedding receptions, but they are still held to the same maximum occupancy requirements of **10** inside / 50 outside, per enclosed indoor or outdoor space.

Q: Can you clarify the rules for funerals and weddings? (Posted November 20, 2020)

A: Funeral SERVICES and wedding CEREMONIES are exceptions to the mass gathering rule, so they may be any size and be held either inside or outside, but social distancing should be observed to the fullest extent practicable. However, any RECEPTION or VISITATION, either before or after the wedding or funeral is subject to the mass gathering requirement of either 10 people inside or 50 people outside.

Q: Is dancing allowed outside with a DJ? (Posted July 31, 2020)

A: Yes, dancing is allowed outside with a dance floor and DJ, as long as the 50 person outdoor limit is observed.

RESTAURANTS, BARS, CLUBS, BOTTLE SHOPS, AND OTHER FOOD & DRINK SERVICES

Q: What are the rules for alcohol sales for ON-SITE consumption at restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: Pursuant to the Governor's EO 181, restaurants and other similar businesses which are currently allowed to be open and which sell alcoholic beverages **shall cease the sale and service of alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption from 9:00 pm until 7:00 am each day (the "nighttime public closure period")**. They also cannot provide off-site table service, catering service, or bartending services for the sale and consumption of alcohol during these hours.

Q: What are the rules for alcohol sales for TO-GO mixed beverages at restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: Pursuant to the Governor's EO 183, "Permitted Sellers" (i.e. restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, and distilleries that are ALREADY permitted to sell mixed beverages at any time) may sell for curbside service, delivery, or pick-up by the purchaser one mixed beverage that meets the following criteria:

- no more than 750mL
- no more than one standard drink
- in a sealed container
- containing a label with:
 - the name of the drink
 - quantity of liquor
 - name of purchaser
 - a statement that says the drink may not be transferred to anyone under 21

Q: Does the rule for TO-GO beverages also apply to beer and alcohol? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: NO. The TO-GO rules only apply to mixed liquor drinks (cocktails) and DO NOT apply to beer or wine sales. However, curbside pickup, takeout, and delivery of UNSEALED beer and wine has always been allowed under the Governor's Executive Orders, and this does not change.

Q: Are restaurants and similar food and drink providers required to close completely by 10:00 pm? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: These businesses must close their ON-PREMISES service to the public by 10:00 pm at night, but they are allowed to remain open for delivery, carryout, and curbside pickup. "Permitted Sellers" of mixed beverages may not remain open and sell mixed beverages to-go after 2 a.m.

Q: What are the consequences for a restaurant or other business that does not stop selling or serving alcohol after 9:00 pm for ON-SITE consumption? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: In addition to civil citations or misdemeanor charges that can be issued by WPD for non-compliance, ALE (NC Alcohol Law Enforcement) agents can issue violations and take enforcement action against the business that could result in sanctions up to and including revocation of their alcohol permits.

Q: Can I order more than one drink to-go for pick-up or delivery? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: No. To-go mixed beverages are limited to one per person at a time, and each person ordering a to-go cocktail must present a valid ID at the time of pick-up or delivery.

Q: Do I have to be present when a drink is picked up or delivered? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: Yes. Every person who orders a to-go mixed drink must be present when the order is picked up or delivered to present identification. Additional drinks will not be allowed to leave the premises for pick-up orders or dropped off during delivery if the person who ordered it is not present to show identification.

Q: Can I order a mixed beverage to-go and stay outside the facility, sit in my car, or take to a park to enjoy my beverage? (Posted December 26, 2020)

A: No. Mixed beverages ordered to-go must remain sealed in the passengers' seat until they reach your home. To-go mixed beverages may not be consumed in any place where possession of fortified wine and liquor is prohibited under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 18B-301 (streets, sidewalks, etc.) or any place otherwise prohibited by federal, state, or local law, such as public parks, vehicles, school property, etc.

Q: Are grocery stores, convenience stores, and other similar businesses still allowed to sell alcohol for OFF-PREMISES consumption after 9:00 pm? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: Yes. Grocery stores and anywhere else that was already allowed to be open for the retail sale of alcohol for off-premises consumption is still allowed to sell alcohol for off-premises consumption after 9:00 pm.

Q. Do fast food workers and other restaurant workers have to stay 6 feet apart and wear a mask? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: All restaurants must have workers wear face coverings at all times, regardless of whether they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person, whether that person is a customer or co-worker. Restaurant workers are not required to stay six (6) feet apart from co-workers or customers, as long as they are wearing the face covering.

Q: What are the current rules for food trucks and their workers? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Food trucks are treated like restaurants, so on-premises consumption is allowed. Operators are encouraged to tell their customers to stand at least 6 feet apart while they wait for their food to be prepared, and food truck workers must wear masks at all times, regardless of whether they are within 6 feet of another person.

Q: Are hookah lounges and cigar bars allowed to be open? (Posted November 20, 2020)

A: Yes, they are allowed to be open under the following conditions:

1. All guests must be seated and spaced out by at least 6 feet in all directions from other groups of guests.
2. All workers and guests must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.
3. Indoor seating may be open, but is limited to the **10** person indoor mass gathering requirement.
4. No alcoholic beverages may be sold for on-site consumption in any indoor area.
5. Outdoor seating areas may be open, with guests limited to the LESSER of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity specifically for the outdoor area, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity for the outdoor area).
6. Alcoholic beverages may be sold for on-site consumption in outdoor seating areas, subject to all state and local regulations.

Q: Are restaurants allowed to host parties, receptions, or corporate events? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: If a restaurant has a private meeting room or area, it must follow the rules for entertainment facilities and event spaces for that private space, including the following:

1. All guests must be seated except when they go to the restroom or get up for the purpose of obtaining food or drink (i.e. from a buffet station).
2. No standing receptions, cocktail hours, or time set aside to mingle while standing.
3. Tables must be separated by at least 6 feet.
4. Workers and guests must wear masks, unless an exception applies.
5. The capacity for guests for the private meeting room or area shall be the lesser of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity for that specific room or area, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity).
6. There must be 6 feet of spacing at all point of sale areas.

Q: Can the indoor areas of bars be open? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: INDOOR areas of bars must remain closed, but patrons are allowed to go inside for the purpose of using the restroom or to place an order. Face coverings must be worn inside the facility. There cannot be any seating inside, and areas where patrons are placing an order must be marked and spaced so that patrons can remain at least 6 feet apart while placing their order. No food or drink may be consumed inside the bar, and none of the indoor amenities like pool tables or pinball machines may be used.

Q: What are the rules for the OUTDOOR areas at bars? (Posted October 2, 2020)

A: The OUTDOOR seating areas of bars, and any associated outdoor amenities, may be open under the following conditions:

1. All guests must be seated, but guests at a table at a bar do NOT have to be from the same household.
2. The capacity for outdoor seating areas at bars is the LESSER of 1) 100 people, or 2) 30% of the stated fire capacity specifically for the outdoor area, or 3) 7 people per 1,000 square feet of space (if there is no stated fire capacity for the outdoor area).
3. Workers and entertainers do not count toward capacity limits.
4. Groups of guests must be spaced out by at least 6 feet, and any outdoor entertainers must be at least 6 feet from guests.
5. If not using waitstaff, any ordering areas must be designated and spaced at least 6 feet apart.
6. All guests and workers must wear face coverings, unless an exception applies.

Q: How many people are allowed to be in a restaurant at one time? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Restaurants must arrange their seating areas, both indoor and outdoor, so that customers sitting at a table are not within 6 feet of any customers sitting at another table. Additionally, customers sitting at a counter should be separated from other groups by 6 feet. Once the restaurant is arranged to ensure social distancing, the maximum number of customers allowed in both their indoor and outdoor spaces when added together, is 50% of the stated fire capacity for the indoor restaurant space.

Q: Is there a limit for how many people can be seated at a table in a restaurant? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: There can be no more than 10 customers seated together at the same table, unless the individuals at the table are from the same household.

Q: What additional safety and sanitation rules apply to restaurants? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Restaurants are required to follow all of the core signage, screening, and sanitation requirements that are contained in the Governor's executive orders. Additionally, restaurants are ordered to mark 6 feet of spacing in lines at high traffic areas for customers, promote frequent use of hand-washing and sanitizer use by all staff members, and increase disinfection during peak times or high customer density times, including disinfection of all shared objects between each use.

Q: Are country clubs and social clubs allowed to be open? (Posted June 25, 2020)

A: Country clubs and social clubs are allowed to be open, so long as they comply with all other applicable restrictions, including the closing of bars located at/in the clubs, unless the bar is operating as part of a restaurant that is allowed to be open under the Governor's Executive Orders. In that situation, the restaurant must comply with all requirements for restaurants under all applicable orders. Additionally, the mass gathering, face covering, and social distancing requirements must be followed.

Q: What is a “social club” and does it include bars? (Posted June 25, 2020)

A: “Social clubs” are places where people who have a common interest, occupation, or activity typically gather to meet, but it does not include restaurants or bars. Social clubs are similar to country clubs and include locations like an Elk’s Lodge, a yacht club, a hunting club, private neighborhood clubs, and locations for service organizations like Kiwanis clubs and the Garden Club. Indoor bars continue to be closed pursuant to the Governor’s orders, so any bar inside any social club is still required to be closed, other than for delivery or takeout options. Additionally, restaurants are allowed to be open with specific limitations, so any restaurant inside a social club must strictly adhere to the requirements of all applicable orders, including maximum occupancy limits, social distancing, mask requirements, and sanitizing/cleaning requirements.

Q: What is the difference in a restaurant and a bar? (Posted May 29, 2020)

A: State law provides the legal definitions of eating establishments and restaurants in N.C.G.S. Sec. 18B-1000(2) and 18B-1000(6). “Bars” means establishments that are not eating establishments or restaurants as defined in those statutes, but that have a permit to sell alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption under N.C.G.S. Sec. 18B-1001, and that are principally engaged in the business of selling alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption.

Q: What about breweries, wineries, and distilleries? (Posted May 29, 2020)

A: An establishment is not be considered to be a “bar” which is “principally engaged in the business of selling alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption” if it 1) produces alcoholic beverages for commercial sale; 2) is permitted by the ABC Commission under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 18B-1101 to 18B-1105; and 3) is authorized to sell at retail for on-premises consumption. As a result, breweries, wineries, and distilleries that are permitted under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 18B-1100 et. seq., and which therefore meet the above test, are allowed to open.

Q: Do bottle shops and wine shops fall under the same requirements as “bars”? (Posted May 29, 2020)

A: If a business can show that its primary business is the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption OFF premises (whether it calls itself a “bottle shop,” or a “wine shop” or something similar), then that business is allowed to have some ON premises consumption, which would be based on their max occupancy requirements, just like restaurants, as long as they follow all of the restaurant rules in the Governor’s executive orders. This means that wine shops could have on-site tastings, or “bottle shops” that do not make most of their revenue from on-site consumption could have on-site consumption (either inside or outside) equal to 50% of their indoor fire capacity. **For an official determination as to whether one of these types of businesses is allowed to be open, the business owner should call the NC ABC Commission in Raleigh, and they will review the businesses ABC permit status and provide guidance.**

RETAIL STORES AND OTHER SALES ACTIVITIES

Q: How many people can be inside a retail business at one time, and who has to monitor that number? (Posted November 23, 2020)

A: Retail businesses must limit the number of customers inside the store to 50% of their stated fire capacity. Additionally, if the retail business has more than 15,000 square feet of interior space, the business MUST have at least one worker designated as responsible for enforcing the face covering and maximum occupancy requirements. Such employees must be stationed close enough to the entrance of the store to be able to control the number of people entering the store for the maximum occupancy requirements and to check and ensure that face coverings are being worn.

Q: What qualifies as a “retail business”? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Any business where customers go to purchase good or services is considered a retail business, including grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, banks, ABC stores, clothing stores, and large-format retail stores.

Q: What other requirements are there for retail stores? (Posted September 4, 2020)

A: Retail businesses must mark 6 feet of spacing at check-out lines and in other high-traffic areas for customers, such as at deli counters and near high-demand products. They must also follow all of the core signage, screening, and sanitation/safety requirements as defined in the Governor’s executive orders.

Q: Is it legal for companies to be conducting door to door sales while we are under a stay at home order? (Posted May 22, 2020)

A: All retail sales and service providers/industries which are not specifically closed or restricted by either the state or local orders are allowed to operate at this time, as long as all of the requirements of the Governor’s Executive Order #141 (EO 141) are followed, including social distancing.

Q: Are yard sales allowed? (Posted May 1, 2020)

A: Similar to pawn shops, because people often go to yard sales to obtain essential items (i.e. used appliances, clothing, etc.) yard sales are allowed as long as mass gathering (no more than 50 people there at a time), face covering, and social distancing requirements (at least 6 feet apart) are followed. Frequent sanitation is highly encouraged due to the number of people placing their hands-on different items prior to buying them.

Q: Can an employer at a business that remains closed to the public require employees to report to work to perform tasks like cleaning and inventory in the store? (Posted April 21, 2020)

A: Employees are allowed to continue working at any business performing the operations necessary to maintain the business, such as cleaning and taking inventory. In fact, it is both legal and encouraged for employers to do what they can to keep their employees working in some capacity during this time when so many businesses are having to lay off workers.

Q: Are house cleaning services allowed to operate, including in homes? (Posted April 14, 2020)

A: Cleaning services are allowed under both the state and local orders. Employees are encouraged to maintain social distancing between themselves and with customers while in a home or at a business. If they are not able to maintain social distancing while they are working, then they are encouraged to wear personal protective items like gloves and cloth masks while they are working.

SCHOOLS

Q: How do the face covering and mass gathering requirements apply to schools? (Posted December 10, 2020)

A: All teachers, workers, visitors, and all other adults at a school, as well as all children age 5 and older must wear face coverings while at the school, unless an exception applies. The mass gathering numbers, however, do not apply to educational institutions.

Q: Are private schools and charter schools required to abide by the Governor's orders relating to school openings? (Posted July 17, 2020)

A: The Governor's orders relating to school openings apply to all public schools in the state of North Carolina. If a charter school is a public school, then the requirements apply. If a school is truly private and not a public school or public charter school, then the school is free to determine its own schedule, but is also encouraged to use the Governor's plan as guidance for re-opening.